

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER VAN DER STEE VISIT

REF: (A) CURACAO 0326, (B) CURACAO 0224

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED APRIL 20 AT TERMIN-
ATION OF ORIENTATION VISIT HERE BY MINISTER FOR ANTILLEAN
AFFAIRS A.P.J.M. VAN DER STEE:

BEGIN TEXT.

"(1) THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES HAS ANNOUNCED
THAT THE INTER-ISLAND CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE SIX ISLANDS
OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES ON THE DECENTRALIZATION AND
RESTRUCTURING PLANS LAID DOWN IN THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM OF
THE ANTILLEAN CABINET SHALL BEGIN WITHIN A VERY SHORT PERIOD.

"(2) ON THE PART OF THE KINGDOM GOVERNMENT IT IS PROPOSED TO
INSTITUTE A WORK GROUP WITH THE TASK OF MAKING AN INVENTORY
AND INVESTIGATING POTENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE NETHERLANDS
ANTILLES, THE ISLANDS OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND HOLLAND.
OF THIS WORK GROUP UNDER DUTCH CHAIRMANSHIP, THE MEMBERS SHALL
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BE EXPERTS DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF HOLLAND, THE GOVERN-
MENT OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF ALL
ISLANDS OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES.

THE KINGDOM GOVERNMENT SHALL PRESENT THIS PROPOSAL,
WITH WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND THE
DELEGATION OF THE ISLAND COUNCIL OF ARUBA COULD AGREE IN PRINCIPLE,

TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE OTHER ISLANDS, WITH THE INTENTION OF BEING ABLE TO DECIDE JOINTLY IN JUNE 1978 ON THE INSTITUTION OF THIS WORK GROUP.

"(3) AS SOON AS THE INTER-ISLAND CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE SIX ISLANDS OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE AND THE CONSULTATION IN THE WORK GROUP, MEANT IN POINT 2, HAS STARTED, PROPOSALS COVERING LEGAL REGULATIONS WHICH ARE ANTICIPATED TO INTERFERE WITH THE FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE SHALL BE DISCUSSED BOTH IN THE INTER-ISLAND CONSULTATION AND IN THE WORK GROUP.

"(4) THE DELEGATION OF THE ISLAND COUNCIL OF ARUBA HAS PROMISED TO TAKE PART IN A CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER IN THE CONSULTATION REFERRED TO IN POINTS 1 AND 2. THE RESULTS OF THIS CONSULTATION SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE KINGDOM GOVERNMENT, THE ANTILLEAN GOVERNMENT AND TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF ALL THE ISLANDS.

"(5) THE CURRENT CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE KINGDOM GOVERNMENT AND A DELEGATION OF THE ISLAND COUNCIL OF ARUBA ON THE BASIS OF ARTICLE 26 OF THE ISLAND REGULATION SHALL BE CONTINUED, IF NECESSARY.

END TEXT.

2. COMMENT. CURACAO 0326 TOUCHED ON SIGNIFICANCE OF VAN DER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STEE'S VISIT IN SEVERAL SUBSTANTIVE AREAS. ABOVE COMMUNIQUE CONTAINS A NUMBER OF POINTS WORTH NOTING:

A. A WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN CREATED IN EFFECT TO LOOK INTO MATTERS RAISED BY THE ARUBANS' COMPLAINTS OF DOMINATION BY CURACAO AND ASPIRATIONS FOR A DIRECT, EXTENSIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH HOLLAND. GIVEN FACT THAT GON MIGHT HAVE STONEWALLED ON EVEN TALKING WITH ARUBANS FURTHER, THIS MUST BE CONSIDERED A GAIN FOR BETICO.

B. THE FORMULATION OF POINT (2) ACKNOWLEDGES THE DESIRABILITY OF SUCH A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOLLAND AND THE INDIVIDUAL ANTILLEAN ISLANDS. ANOTHER GAIN FOR BETICO.

C. IN RETURN FOR HOLLAND'S AGREEING TO THE DISCUSSABILITY OF THE ARUBANS' POSITIONS, THEY AGREED TO USE ROZENDAL GOVERNMENTS PROGRAM ON RE-STRUCTURING THE INTER-ISLAND RELATIONS OF THE ANTILLES AS A STARTING POINT FOR DISCUSSIONS IN THE WORKING GROUPS. IN LIGHT OF BETICO'S STATEMENTS TO CONGEN ON ACCEPTABILITY OF NAG PROGRAM (CURACAO 0224) IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE BETICO'S AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT IS MORE THAN TACTICAL FOR THE SHORT TERM.

DECONTROL FOLLOWING MAY 9, 1981.

PENBERTHY

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